

I am appalled at Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary, "Stolen Honor", days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and the stifling effects that such consolidation can have on journalism and democracy. At the very least, Sinclair should be made to honor the equal-time guidelines and air a pro-Kerry documentary (such as "Going Upriver") or allow Kerry access to airtime for a rebuttal

Sinclair needs to be reminded that it uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. This in no way serves the public interest, just their corporate interests.

Sinclair's actions, along with those of other media conglomerates such as Clear Channel, show the glaring need that exists to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I appreciate having this opportunity to voice my dismay at Sinclair's reprehensible actions. Thank you.